

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1262

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SUBP: IN PRAISE OF GOOD WRITING, TEACHERS AND "UNCLE" TENG

1. SUMMARY. IN THE MIDDLE OF A 1 1/2 PAGE ARTICLE IN THE MAY 4
PEOPLE'S DAILY OSTENSIBLY DEVOTED TO PRAISE OF DEDICATED AND
INNOVATIVE TEACHERS AT A PEKING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THERE IS
PRINTED A "MODEL" COMPOSITION ON THE THEME "UNCLE TENG
SHIAO-PING HAS COME." WRITTEN IN FLORID STYLE REMINISCENT
OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION ERA PAEANS TO CHAIRMAN MAO THE
OMNISCIANT, THE 1964 COMPOSITION BY A 4TH GRADER
DESCRIBES THE EXCITEMENT AMONG HIS CLASSMATES ON GLIMPING
TENG AT MAY DAY FESTIVITIES. THE MOTIVE IN REPRINTING
A 14YEAR OLD SCHOOLBOY COMPOSITION IS OBVIOUSLY LESS
PEDAGOGICAL THAN POLITICAL: TO STRESS TENG'S COMMITMENT
TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND RESPECT FOR TEACHERS. READERS OF
THE ARTICLE WILL ALSO HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN DISCERNING
ANOTHER SLIGHTLY MORE SUBTLE POINT: THAT TENG HSIAO-PING,
FACE WRINKLED AS LIVING TESTIMONY TO EXEMPLARY SERVICE
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TO THE PARTY AND COUNTRY THROUGH THREE DECADES, WAS UNJUSTLY
STRUCK DOWN IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MAY 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES A 1 1/2 PAGE ARTICLE
BY "PEOPLE'S EDUCATION" REPORTERS WANG YU-SHENG AND
LIU TANG-CHIANG RECOUNTING THE EXEMPLARY DEDICATION
AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS OF SEVERAL TEACHERS AT

THECHING-SHAN (COAL HILL) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CENTRAL PEKING. ON ONE LEVEL, THE ARTICLE IS PRINTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAY 4TH MOVEMENT -- TO GIVE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY TO SUPERIOR TEACHERS, AS DIRECTED BY VICE CHAIRMAN TENG HSIAO-PING, AND TO PORTRAY THE FUTURE OF CHINA AS RESIDING IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

3. APPROXIMATELY 1/3 OF THE WAY INTO THE ARTICLE ONE DISCOVERS A MODEL COMPOSITION ENTITLED "UNCLE TENG HSIAO-PING HAS COME." WRITTEN IN FLORID STYLE REMINISCENT OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION PAEANS TO CHAIRMAN MAO THE OMNISCIENT, THE 1964 COMPOSITION BY A 4TH GRADER DESCRIBES THE EXCITEMENT AMONG HIS CLASSMATES ON GLIMPING TENG AT MAY DAY FESTIVITIES. WHEN THE CHILD FINALLY SPOTS TENG AMIDST THE COLORED STREAMERS, HE SEES "A STURDY MAN, CLOTHED ALL IN GREY, WALKING WITH A FIRM AND STEADY STEP, HIS FEATURES BENEVOLENT." "AH, IT REALLY IS UNCLE HSIAO-PING," THE CHILD CONTINUES, "A HEAT WAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE BODY, OH, WHO COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS IN MY HEART? WHO KNOWS WHY I SO PASSIONATELY LOVED THE LEADER(S) OF THE PARTY AND STATE? IN THE FACE OF UNCLE HSIAO-PING COVERED WITH WRINKLES, ONE COULD SEE THE TRACES LEFT BY SO MANY LABORS AND SO MUCH FATIGUE. IN THE DAYS OF THE LONG MARCH, IN THOSE BITTER AND ARDUOUS MONTHS AND YEARS, IN ORDER TO STRIKE DOWN THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS, THE ARMY LED BY THE PARTY CENTER, NOT SPARING

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ANY HARDSHIP, NOT SPARING LABORS AND FATIGUE, CROSSING THE MOUNTAINS AND SCALING THE PEAKS, STRIDING ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS AND FORDING THE RIVERS, CASTING ASIDE TEN THOUSAND HARDSHIPS, EATING LEATHER, WEARING STRAW SANDALS ... THE DAY OF LIBERATION CAME ... THE OLDER GENERATION HAD STRUCK DOWN THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS ..."

4. THE REPORTERS HOLD UP THIS COMPOSITION AS A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE IN PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION WRITING, DONE BEFORE THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WAS WRECKED BY THE GANG OF FOUR. THAT POINT IS WELL TAKEN ; THE POST-1966 GENERATION OF CHINESE YOUTH IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE WOEFULLY DEFICIENT IN RUDIMENTARY COMMAND OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

5. BUT THE REAL MOTIVE IN REPRINTING A SCHOOLBOY COMPOSITION ALREADY 14 YEARS OLD IS OBVIOUSLY LESS PEDAGOGICAL THAN POLITICAL: TO STRESS TENG'S COMMITMENT TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND RESPECT FOR TEACHERS.

6. READERS OF THE ARTICLE WILL ALSO HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN DISCERNING ANOTHER SLIGHTLY MORE SUBTLE POINT: THAT TENG HSIAO-PING, FACE WRINKLED AS LIVING TESTIMONY TO

EXEMPLARY SELF-SACRIFICING SERVICE TO PARTY AND COUNTRY
OVER THREE DECADES, WAS GRIEVOUSLY WRONGED AND UNJUSTLY
STRUCK DOWN IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.
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